

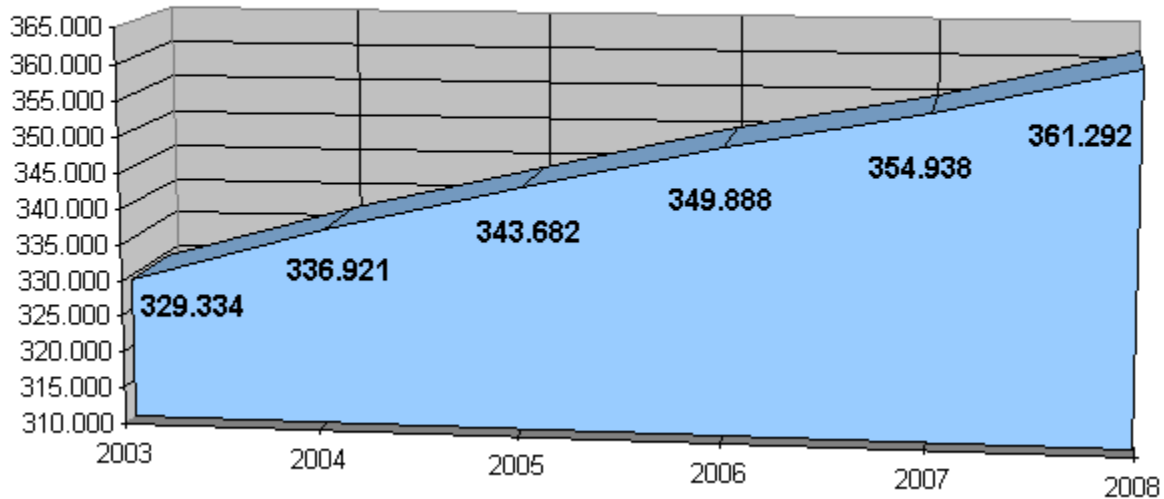
- **Major Employers**
- **Fortune 500 in El Paso**
- **Top 20 Employers**
- **Top 100 Businesses**

The borderplex region is in the midst of a successful transition to an information-age economy. That transition carries with it a large number of challenges and opportunities that result from economic globalization. The new technologies and more efficient business practices associated with process are helping to revitalize the El Paso/Ciudad Juárez regional economy.

International trade has long been a staple of borderplex commerce. NAFTA and the Mexican maquiladora program helped stimulate even greater development in that realm during the late 1990s. El Paso service sector companies are continuing this tradition in the 21st century by identifying new opportunities and creating new products for those markets.

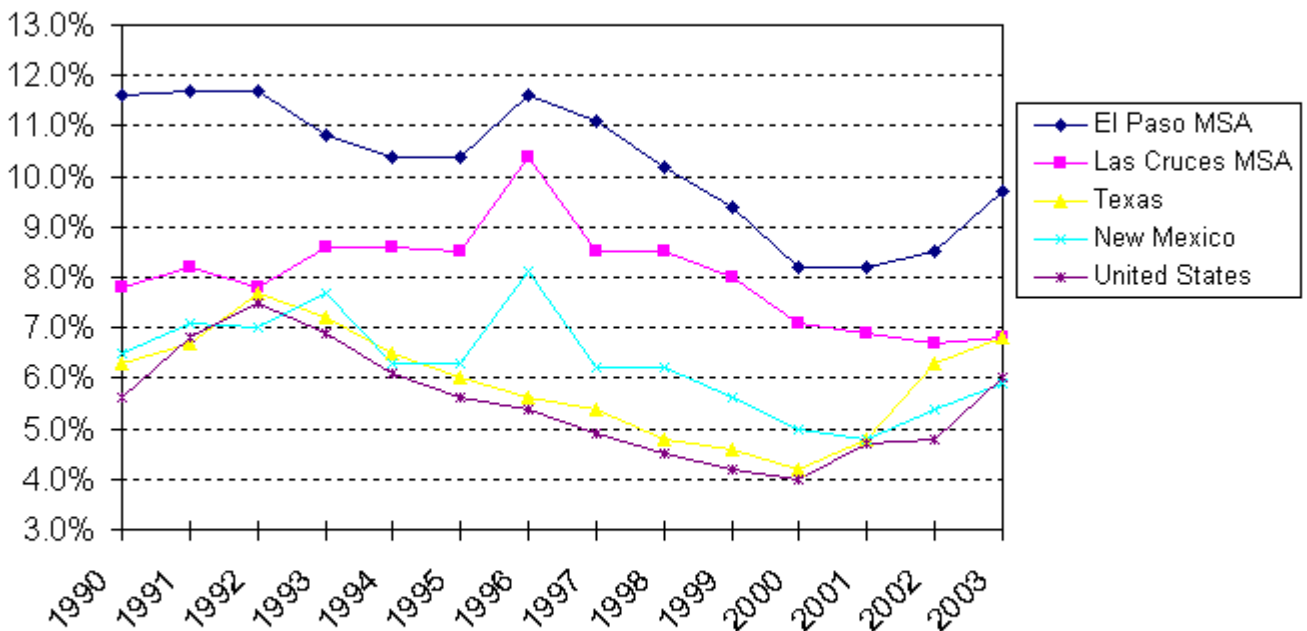
Of the various challenges posed by this structural shift in the economic fortunes of El Paso, none is more important than the need for improved workforce quality. Greater educational attainment will not only attract new business investment, it will raise labor productivity and metropolitan income performance. Public sector infrastructure investment will complement that process, further improving business productivity and, by extension, private sector profitability.

El Paso MSA Employment Projections 2003 - 2008



Source: UTEP Border Region Modeling Project 2003.

Unemployment Rates



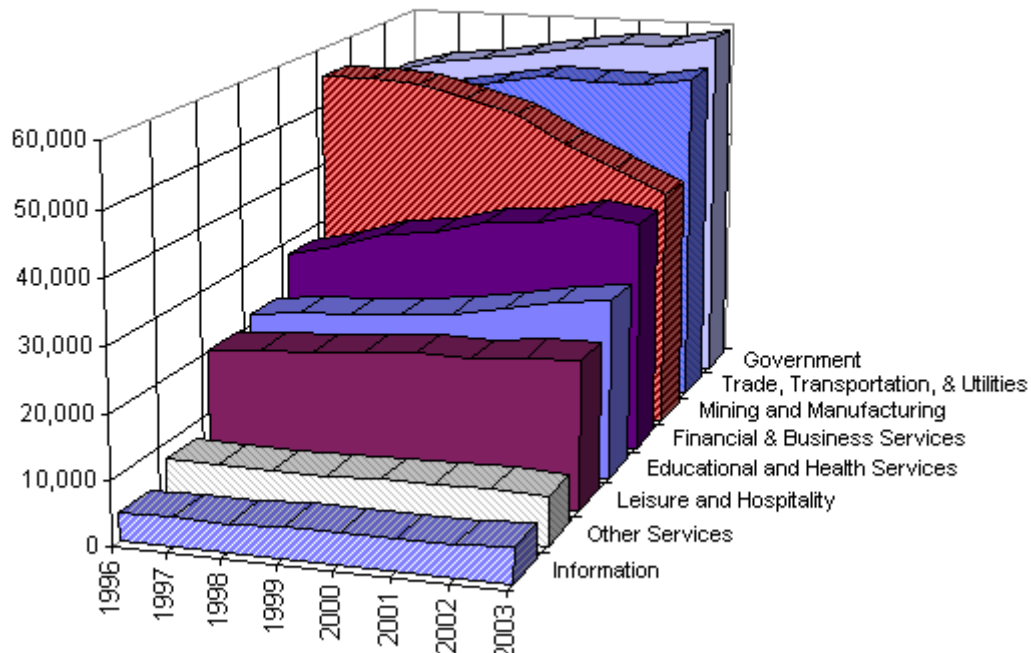
Source: Texas Workforce Commission
New Mexico Department of Labor.

Unemployment Rates					
Year	El Paso MSA	Las Cruces MSA	Texas	New Mexico	United States
1990	11.6%	7.8%	6.3%	6.5%	5.6%
1991	11.7%	8.2%	6.7%	7.1%	6.8%
1992	11.7%	7.8%	7.7%	7.0%	7.5%
1993	10.8%	8.6%	7.2%	7.7%	6.9%
1994	10.4%	8.6%	6.5%	6.3%	6.1%
1995	10.4%	8.5%	6.0%	6.3%	5.6%
1996	11.6%	10.4%	5.6%	8.1%	5.4%
1997	11.1%	8.5%	5.4%	6.2%	4.9%
1998	10.2%	8.5%	4.8%	6.2%	4.5%
1999	9.4%	8.0%	4.6%	5.6%	4.2%
2000	8.2%	7.1%	4.2%	5.0%	4.0%
2001	8.2%	6.9%	4.8%	4.8%	4.7%
2002	8.5%	6.7%	6.3%	5.4%	4.8%
2003	9.7%	6.8%	6.8%	5.9%	6.0%
Sources: Texas Workforce Commission, Labor Market Information					
New Mexico Department of Labor					

Employment & The Labor Market

In the decade prior to the economic recession of 2001, the El Paso Civilian Labor Force grew fairly rapidly. Labor availability helped attract important investment flows from other regions of the country. In response, total employment in the El Paso MSA increased enough to substantially lower the local unemployment rate. During the 1990s, the annual rate of jobs creation in El Paso averaged 2.3 percent annually. Similar to much of the United States, employment erosion occurred in 2001 and 2002. That process eventually led to a moderate increase in the jobless rate, but by a much smaller amount than was observed in other metropolitan areas around the country. Fiscal stability, greater educational attainment, and better public infrastructure are expected to sustain the progress achieved in recent years.

El Paso Job Growth 1996-2003



Source: TWC, Labor Market Information April 2004

El Paso Job Growth 1997 - 2003

Economic Sector	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	1996-03 Change	1996-03 Percent Change
Information	4,200	4,500	4,400	4,900	4,900	4,900	4,900	5,400	1,200	28.6%
Other Services	7,500	7,300	7,200	7,200	7,600	7,700	7,900	7,500	0	0.0%
Leisure and Hospitality	20,200	20,900	21,100	21,900	22,500	22,300	23,200	23,500	3,300	16.3%
Educational & Health Services	21,600	22,600	23,000	23,600	24,500	25,900	27,600	28,600	7,000	32.4%
Financial & Business Services	27,800	30,000	32,600	33,300	35,600	36,300	38,200	37,000	9,200	33.1%
Mining and Manufacturing	55,200	55,200	54,700	52,600	50,400	46,000	42,400	38,400	-16,800	-30.4%
Transportation & Public Utilities	49,500	49,800	51,100	52,600	54,300	53,800	53,700	55,000	5,500	11.1%
Government	50,700	52,800	53,800	55,200	56,600	57,800	57,900	59,500	8,800	17.4%

Source: TWC, Labor Market Information, April 2004.